

**NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

**Advisory Committee Minutes  
Clarion Hotel  
320 Hillsborough Street  
Raleigh, NC**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2010**

Attending:

**Commission Members:**

Larry Pittman, Dr. Diana Antonacci, Debra Dihoff, Dr. Thomas Gettelman, Dr. John Haggerty, Dr. Ranota T. Hall, A. Joseph Kaiser, Beverly M. Morrow, Elizabeth MacMichael, Nancy Moore, Dorothy O'Neal, John Owen, Elizabeth Ramos, Don Trobaugh, Dr. John S. Carbone

**Excused:**

John R. Corne, Judith Ann Dempsey, Dr. Greg Olley, Norman Carter, Sandra DuPuy

**Division Staff:**

Steven E. Hairston, W. Denise Baker, Marta T. Hester, Andrea Borden, Amanda Reeder, Angela Harper

**Others:**

Diane Pomper, Erin McLaughlin, Tara Fields, Louise Fisher, Annaliese Dolph

**Handouts:**

- 1) Handout – Powerpoint Presentation on Housing Update
- 2) Handout – Access to Healthcare
- 3) Handout – Recommendations for MH/DD/SAS Workforce Development in North Carolina
- 4) Handout – 2010 Priority Areas on Access to Healthcare

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Larry Pittman, Chairman, Advisory Committee, at approximately 1:39 pm. Mr. Pittman welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee, requested a moment of reflection, and issued the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder.

*Upon motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the April 15, 2009 Advisory Committee Meeting.*

**Access to Healthcare: Housing Initiatives for MH/DD/SAS Consumers**

Angela Harper, Housing Specialist, Best Practice Team, NC Division of MH/DD/SAS, delivered a power point presentation entitled, *Housing Update*, to the Advisory Committee. The focus of the presentation is outlined below:

- The Need for Affordable Housing
- 2009 Homeless Grants
- Oxford Housing Model

- Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)
- Affordable Housing: State Strategic Plan 2007 – 2010
- Housing Initiatives
- Housing Resource Tools

**Ms. Harper received the following questions and comments from the Advisory Committee:**

Chairman Pittman asked if there was a licensing requirement from the state for Oxford Housing and Ms. Harper stated that there was not. Chairman Pittman stated that Oxford houses do not work very well in rural areas or areas where there is lack of employment and limited public transportation.

Elizabeth Ramos, Advisory Committee member, shared her daughter's successful experience with an Oxford Home.

Debra Dihoff, Advisory Committee member, questioned how many people coming out of facilities being discharged to the homeless shelters were actually being helped. Ms. Harper advised that data is not yet available since the monies just became available in December 2009.

Dr. Ranota Hall, Advisory Committee member, asked if the NC Division of MH/DD/SAS is working with the Local Management Entities (LMEs) to ensure that their staff is aware of these programs and funds so people realize that other options are available besides shelters. Ms. Harper responded that the LMEs are aware of the funds.

Dr. Thomas Gettelman, Advisory Committee member, expressed concern that the LMEs are not aware of how to access these funds and questioned how the monies would be managed at the LME level. Ms. Harper stated that it differs in each community because the funds are not just for the LMEs and each community must have a plan or mechanism in place to access the funds.

Ms. Dihoff requested website information containing the housing material which Ms. Harper presented. Ms. Harper advised that she would ensure that the committee members would be sent the requested information.

Beverly Morrow, Advisory Committee member, asked about the accountability process in place to ensure that the funds are being spent for its intended use. Ms. Harper stated that data is being collected and there are quarterly reporting requirements.

**At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Pittman asked Ms. Harper to continue to provide updates to the Advisory Committee member on housing funding in the future.**

**Update on Workforce Development Initiative**

Steven E. Hairston, Chief, Operations Support Section, NC Division of MH/DD/SAS, delivered an update on the Workforce Development Initiative including the recommendations made as part of the report. Mr. Hairston also emphasized the Healthcare Technician Program and the role of the Staff Definitions Workgroup. He further advised the committee that he would have representatives to provide updates on these two initiatives at future meetings.

**Mr. Hairston received the following questions and comments from the committee:**

Dr. John Haggerty, Advisory Committee member, questioned the role of the Advisory Committee and the implementation of the recommendations of the Workforce Development Initiative Report given the budget constraints. Mr. Hairston explained the budget process, the Advisory Committee's role, and advised that they can help fulfill some of the report recommendations by working with the Staff Definitions Workgroup. Chairman Pittman asked how Committee members could partner with the Staff Definitions Workgroup and Mr. Hairston agreed to submit the names of any members wanting to volunteer.

Betsy MacMichael, Advisory Committee member, asked for clarification of the meaning of *empower* under Recommendation #12. Mr. Hairston advised that this is a recommendation to address training, salary, and benefits of paraprofessional workers in an attempt to enhance pride in their employment and create a more positive work environment.

**2010 Priority Areas on Access to Healthcare**

**The discussion on the 2010 priority areas is listed as follows:**

Ms. Morrow questioned whether community support will still be considered by the Advisory Committee since it will be discussed at the February Commission meeting.

Ms. Dihoff suggested that the Committee consider putting certain essential services back in rule. She reiterated that it may be useful to see what services were required previously contrast to those now required. Chairman Pittman requested the Division staff to provide this information to the Committee and Mr. Hairston agreed. Mr. Hairston also informed the Committee that Rule 10A NCAC 27G .0501, *Required Services*, addresses that issue.

Chairman Pittman requested that Michael Watson from the NC Department of Health and Human Services deliver a presentation to the group on the direction of CABHA and its role in the mh/dd/sa service delivery system. Ms. MacMichael agreed and asked that a representative from the LME level address the committee about how the programs are working at that level. Chairman Pittman extended the invitation to ask a group of LME Directors to attend the next Advisory Committee meeting and Mr. Watson to come to the February Commission meeting. Mr. Hairston agreed.

Mr. Pittman also recommended that Committee members review the Executive Summary of the Institute of Medicine Report as the report contains valuable information. Following the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Owen recommended that the Committee table setting the priority areas until Mr. Watson delivers his presentation.

***A motion for a friendly amendment was passed and approved to postpone setting the 2010 priority areas to allow adequate time for discussion of the top 2010 Priority areas at the next Advisory meeting.***

Mr. Pittman acknowledged the excused absences.

**Public Comment Period**

Louise Fisher, Mental Illness Volunteer Advocate, stated that the community support title should be reworked. She also stated that when the LME representatives come before the committee, they should discuss the weaknesses also.

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.**